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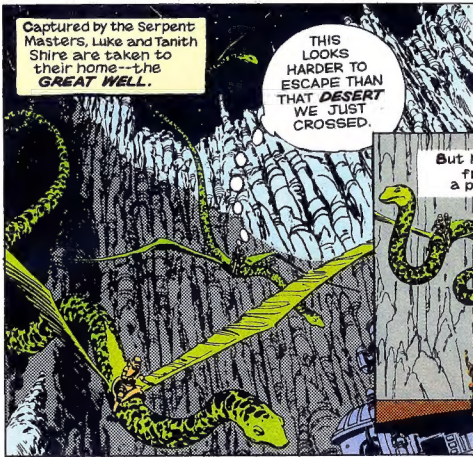
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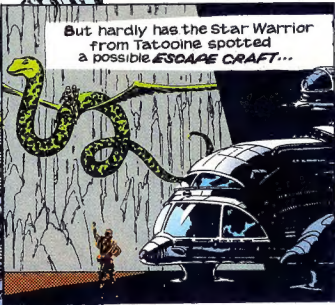
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Captured by the Serpent Masters, Luke and Tanith Shire are taken to their home--the **GREAT WELL**.

THIS LOOKS HARDER TO ESCAPE THAN THAT **DESERT** WE JUST CROSSED.



But hardly has the Star Warrior from Tatooine spotted a possible **ESCAPE CRAFT**...





WELCOME! I AM **TYRANN**, YOUR HUMBLE HOST... AND ABSOLUTE ARBITRATOR OF **LIFE AND DEATH!**

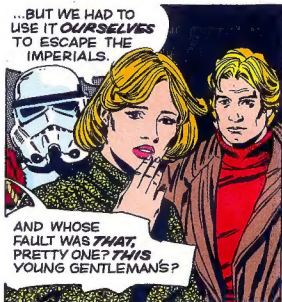


VARN, MY CHIEF SCOUT! BRING THE PRISONERS **CLOSER**, SO I CAN SEE **CLEARLY** WHAT GOOD FORTUNE HAS TOSSED INTO OUR HANDS!



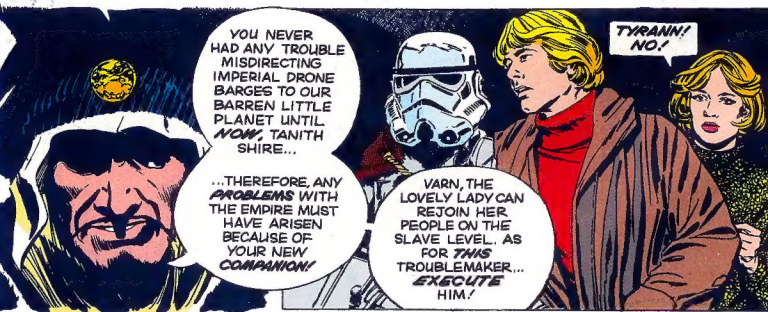
TANITH SHIRE?! DEAR GIRL, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE **OFF-WORLD**, ARRANGING FINE **WRECKS** FOR US TO SCAVENGE!

LUKE AND I BROUGHT A **DRONE BARGE**, TYRANN...



...BUT WE HAD TO USE IT **OURSELVES** TO ESCAPE THE IMPERIALS.

AND WHOSE FAULT WAS **THAT**, PRETTY ONE? **THIS** YOUNG GENTLEMAN'S?



YOU NEVER HAD ANY TROUBLE MISDIRECTING IMPERIAL DRONE BARGES TO OUR BARREN LITTLE PLANET UNTIL **NOW**, TANITH SHIRE...

...THEREFORE, ANY **PROBLEMS** WITH THE EMPIRE MUST HAVE ARISEN BECAUSE OF YOUR NEW **COMPANION!**

VARN, THE LOVELY LADY CAN REJOIN HER PEOPLE ON THE SLAVE LEVEL, AS FOR **THIS** TROUBLEMAKER... **EXECUTE** HIM!

TYRANN!
NO!

MAYBE I CAN'T SUPPLY
YOU WITH ANY MORE **WRECKS**
TO SCAVENGE BECAUSE OF
LUKE'S TROUBLE
WITH THE
EMPIRE...

...BUT
EXECUTING
HIM IS
WASTEFUL!



HE'S A REBEL **TECHNICIAN** AND HE COMES
FROM A DESERT PLANET SIMILAR TO
THIS ONE--YOU NEED
HIS EXPERIENCE
AND EXPERTISE
OPERATING
THE **GREAT**
WELL!



THE GIRL'S
OBVIOUSLY
INFATUATED
WITH HIM,
SUPREME
MASTER,
DON'T **LISTEN**
TO HER!



YOU ALWAYS WERE **PERSUASIVE**,
TANITH. I **ENVY** THE REBEL
FOR BEING ABLE TO INSPIRE SUCH
INTEREST FROM YOU.



TYRANN...?!
SUPREME
MASTER...

...YOU'RE **NOT** GOING
TO LET SKYWALKER
LIVE?!

VARN, HE
MIGHT
ACTUALLY
BE
AS VALUABLE
SLAVING IN THE
GREAT WELL
AS SHE
CLAIMS.

BESIDES, WE
CAN **ALWAYS**
KILL HIM
LATER!



Tyrann orders Luke and Tanith to the **SLAVE LEVEL** of the Great Well.

WATER! A LAKE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE CRATER! AND THAT ISLAND--

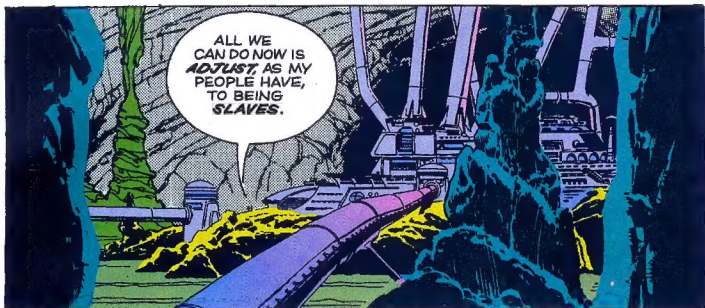
OUR **DESTINATION**, REBEL! THE PLACE WHERE YOU WILL SPEND THE REST OF YOUR **DAYS...**

...WHICH MAY BE **SHORT** UNLESS YOU QUICKLY PROVE **USEFUL!**

TWO GREAT ALTERNATIVES! GOT TO FIND THE **DROIDS** AND FIGURE A WAY TO REACH THAT **STARSHIP** I SAW.

IF YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT **ESCAPE**, LUKE, DON'T BOTHER. THE ONLY WAY OUT IS TO RIDE A **FLYING SERPENT...**

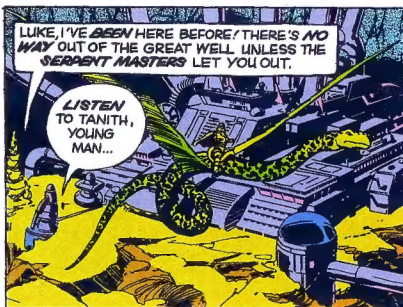
...AND ONLY **SERPENT MASTERS** CAN **CONTROL** THEM!



ALL WE
CAN DO NOW IS
ADJUST, AS MY
PEOPLE HAVE,
TO BEING
SLAVES.



NO! SLAVERY IS ONE
OF THE THINGS THE
REBEL ALLIANCE
IS **FIGHTING**
AGAINST! I
WON'T JUST
ACCEPT IT!



LUKE, I'VE **BEEN** HERE BEFORE! THERE'S **NO**
WAY OUT OF THE GREAT WELL UNLESS THE
SERPENT MASTERS LET YOU OUT.

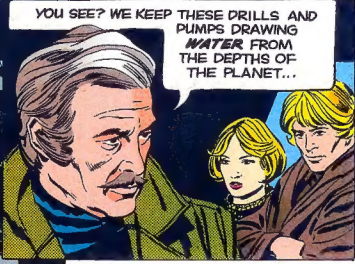
LISTEN
TO TANITH,
YOUNG
MAN...



...SHE'S WORKED
HARD AND LONG
TO **FREE** US.

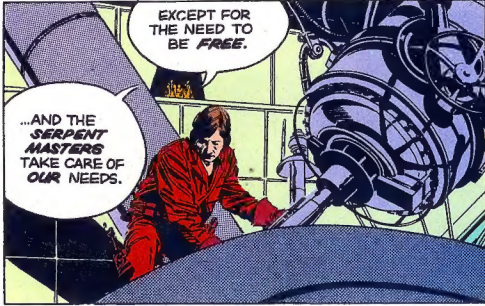


AND I'VE
FAILED,
FATHER--
I'VE
FAILED!



THIS IS WHERE WE
SLAVES *LABOR*, SKYWALKER...
MAINTAINING THE PLUMBING
AND DRILLING EQUIPMENT
THAT KEEPS *WATER* IN
THE GREAT WELL.

YOU SEE? WE KEEP THESE DRILLS AND
PUMPS DRAWING
WATER FROM
THE DEPTHS OF
THE PLANET...



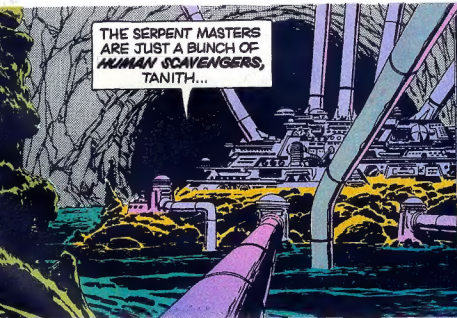
EXCEPT FOR
THE NEED TO
BE *FREE*.

...AND THE
SERPENT
MASTERS
TAKE CARE OF
OUR NEEDS.

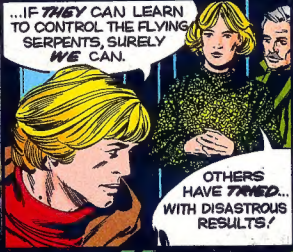


LUKE, HAVEN'T YOU LISTENED
TO US? WHILE THEY
COMMAND THE *FLYING*
SERPENTS,
THERE'S
NO WAY!

THEN WE'LL
LEARN THEIR
SECRET!

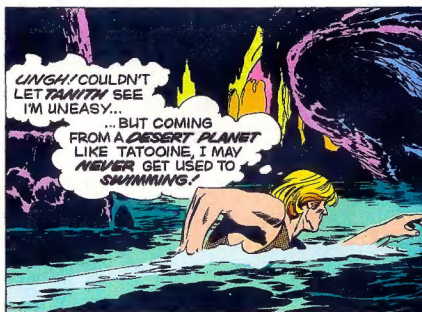
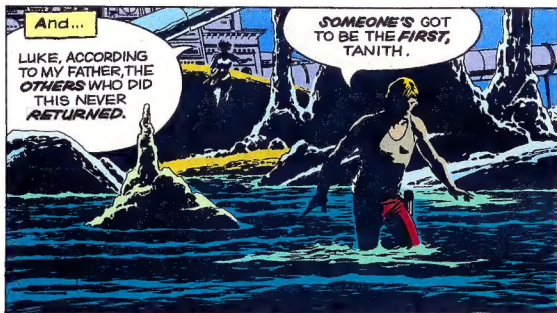
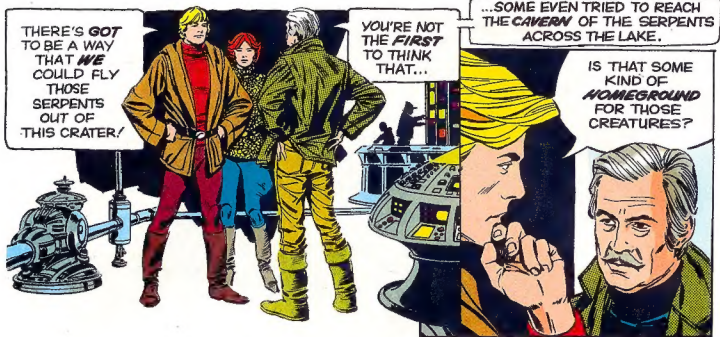


THE SERPENT MASTERS
ARE JUST A BUNCH OF
HUMAN SCAVENGERS,
TANITH...



...IF *THEY* CAN LEARN
TO CONTROL THE *FLYING*
SERPENTS, SURELY
WE CAN.

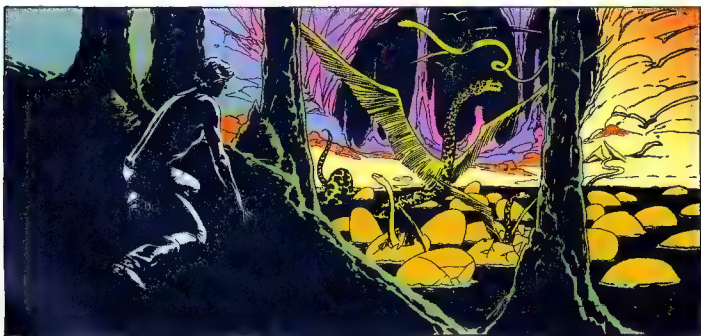
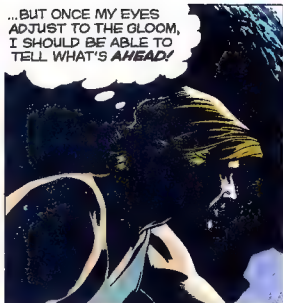
OTHERS
HAVE *TRIED*...
WITH DISASTROUS
RESULTS!

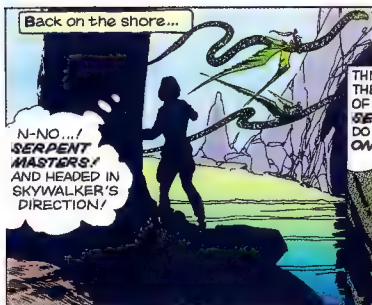


MADE IT! NOT
MUCH LIGHT FILTERS
DOWN INTO THIS
SECTION OF THE
CRATER FROM
THE SURFACE...



...BUT ONCE MY EYES
ADJUST TO THE GLOOM,
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO
TELL WHAT'S **AHEAD!**





Back on the shore...

N-NO...!
**SERPENT
MASTERS!**
AND HEADED IN
SKYWALKER'S
DIRECTION!

THIS IS **IT!**
THE **HOMEGROUND**
OF THE **FLYING**
SERPENTS! NOW
DO I TRY TO JUMP
ON ONE, OR--

THAT
SHADOW!

TYRANN!
AND HIS CHIEF
SCOUT, **VARN!**
THEY'RE GOING
TO **LAND...**



And...

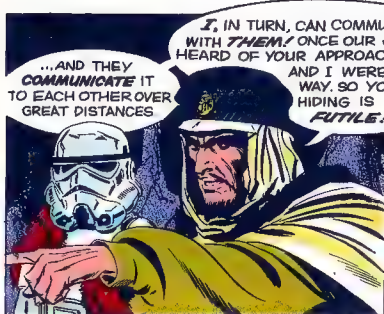
SHOW
YOURSELF,
YOUNG
SKYWALKER!
YOUR PRESENCE
HERE HAS
BEEN
DETECTED!



IF YOU
THINK YOU CAN
STAY **HIDDEN,**
YOU ONLY
FOOL **YOUR-
SELF!**

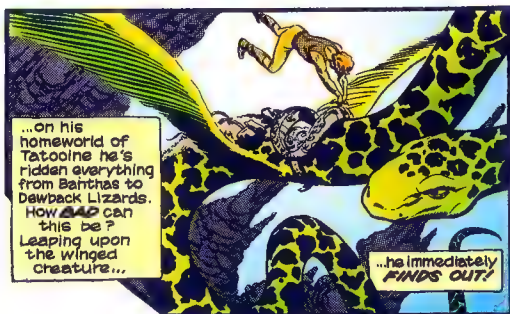
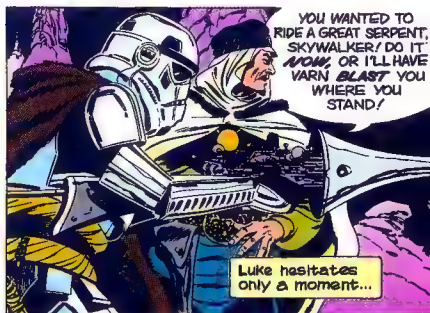
THE
FLYING SERPENTS
ARE QUITE **SENSITIVE**
TO THE PRESENCE OF
HUMANS IN THEIR
HOMEGROUND...

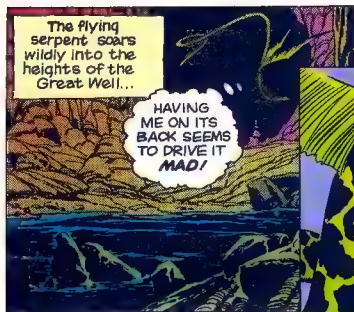






YOU CAME TO THE HOMEGROUND OF OUR GREAT STEEDS HOPING TO *MASTER* THEM AS WE DO, THIS IS YOUR *CHANCE...*





The flying serpent soars wildly into the heights of the Great Well...

HAVING ME ON ITS BACK SEEMS TO DRIVE IT MAD!



THERE'S NO CONTROLLING IT--YET THE SERPENT MASTERS DO! HOW?/WHAT'S THE SECRET?/WHAT'S THE--



Thrown by the flying serpent, Luke plunges downward...

...into the waters of the Great Well!

YOU CAUSED **PREVIOUS** TRESPASSERS ONTO OUR STEEDS' HOMEGROUND TO FALL TO THE **ROCKS**, TYRANN.



TANITH SHIRE WASN'T **INEFATUATED** WITH PREVIOUS TRESPASSERS, VARN.



I DON'T WANT TO MAKE SKYWALKER A **MARTYR**, JUST ANOTHER **INEFFECTUAL SLAVE**.

EVENTUALLY, THE LADY WILL REALIZE ONLY **ONE MAN** HERE DESERVES HER INTEREST... **ME!**



YOU'RE THE **SUPREME** SERPENT MASTER, TYRANN! IF YOU **WANT** TANITH SHIRE, MERELY **TAKE** HER!

I WIN **NOTHING** THAT WAY BUT HER **MATRED**...

...WHICH I ALREADY HAVE IN **ABUNDANCE!**

NO, LET HER COME TO REALIZE
YOUNG *SKYWALKER* IS AS HELPLESS
AS HER *OWN* PEOPLE...



"...AND THAT THE ONLY
FREEDOM SHE'LL *EVER*
FIND IS AT *MY* SIDE!"

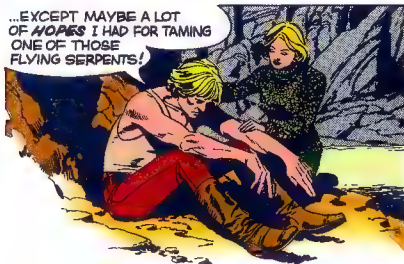


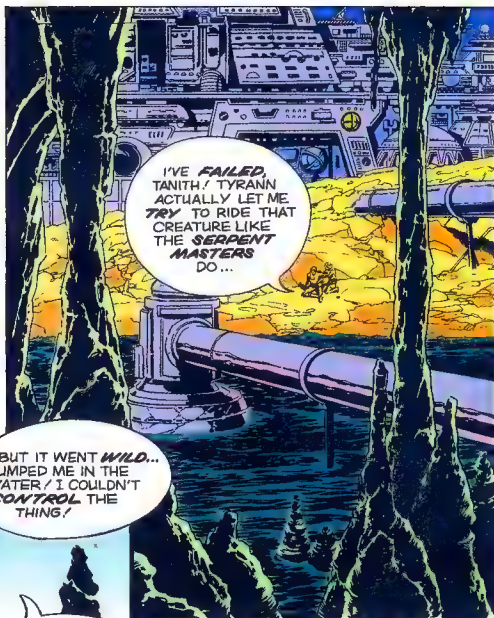
LUKE, CAN
YOU *SPEAK*?
ARE YOU
OKAY?

I... I DON'T
THINK
ANYTHING'S
BROKEN,
TANITH...

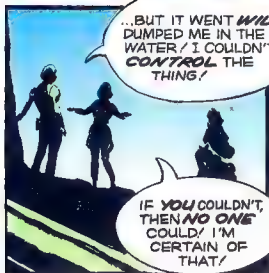


...EXCEPT MAYBE A LOT
OF *HOPES* I HAD FOR TAMING
ONE OF THOSE
FLYING SERPENTS!



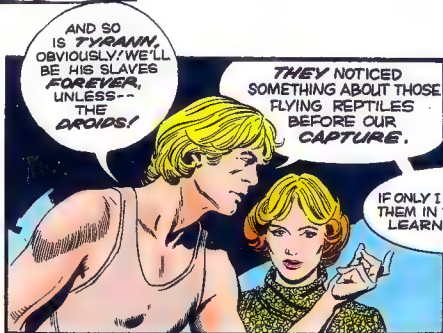


I'VE **FAILED**,
TANITH! TYRANN
ACTUALLY LET ME
TRY TO RIDE THAT
CREATURE LIKE
THE **SERPENT**
MASTERS
DO...



...BUT IT WENT **WILD**...
DUMPED ME IN THE
WATER / I COULDN'T
CONTROL THE
THING!

IF **YOU** COULDN'T,
THEN **NO ONE**
COULD / I'M
CERTAIN OF
THAT!

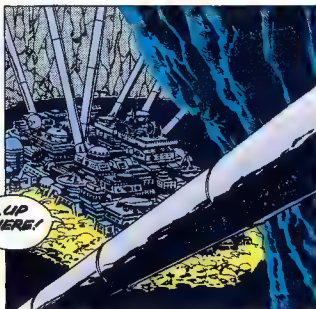
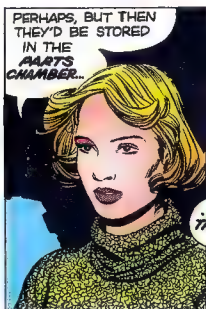
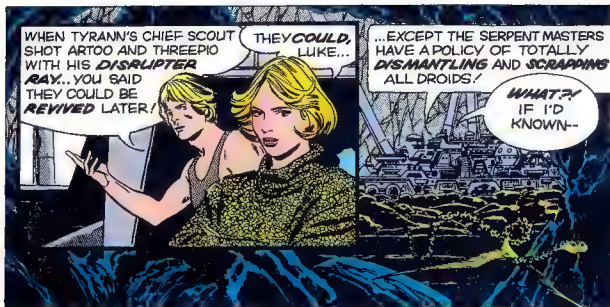


AND SO
IS **TYRANN**.
OBVIOUSLY! WE'LL
BE HIS SLAVES
FOREVER,
UNLESS--
THE
DROIDS!

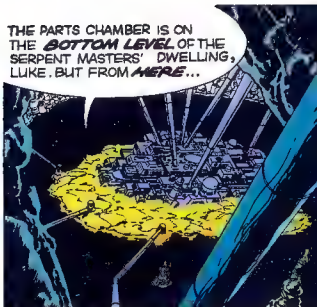
THEY NOTICED
SOMETHING ABOUT THOSE
FLYING REPTILES
BEFORE OUR
CAPTURE.

IF ONLY I CAN **FIND**
THEM IN TIME TO
LEARN **WHAT!**





THE PARTS CHAMBER IS ON THE **BOTTOM LEVEL** OF THE SERPENT MASTERS' DWELLING, LUKE. BUT FROM **HERE**...



...IT MIGHT AS WELL BE ON ANOTHER **PLANET!**



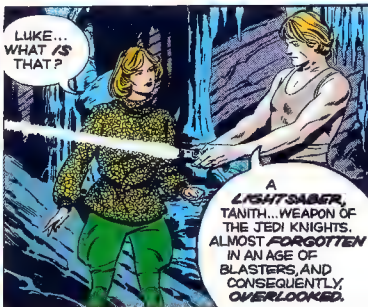
YOU CAN'T **CLIMB** TO ANOTHER PLANET, TANITH!

YOU CAN'T CLIMB THE WALLS OF THE **GREAT WELL** EITHER, SKYWALKER! THEY'RE **TOO SHEER!**

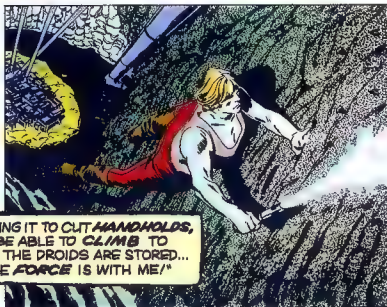


MAYBE I'VE A **SOLUTION** FOR THAT!

LUKE... WHAT **IS** THAT?



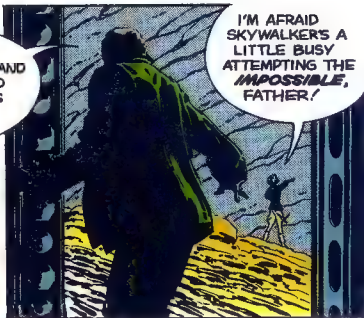
A **LIGHTSABER**, TANITH... WEAPON OF THE JEDI KNIGHTS. ALMOST **FORGOTTEN** IN AN AGE OF BLASTERS, AND CONSEQUENTLY, **OVERLOOKED**.



"BUT USING IT TO CUT **HANDHOLDS**, I MAY BE ABLE TO **CLIMB** TO WHERE THE DROIDS ARE STORED...
...IF THE **FORCE** IS WITH ME!"



TANITH, WHAT'S **HAPPENING?** YOU AND SKYWALKER SHOULD HAVE REJOINED US **LONG AGO!**



I'M AFRAID SKYWALKER'S A LITTLE BUSY ATTEMPTING THE **IMPOSSIBLE, FATHER!**



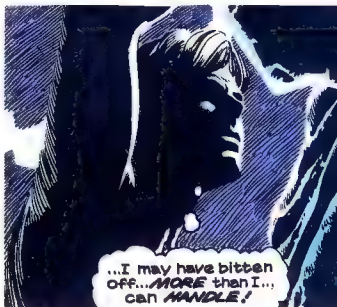
YOU MEAN HE SUCCEEDED IN **MASTERING** A FLYING SERPENT ?!

NO, BUT HE THINKS HIS TWO DROIDS MAY HAVE SOME **CLUE** ABOUT HOW THEY'RE CONTROLLED...

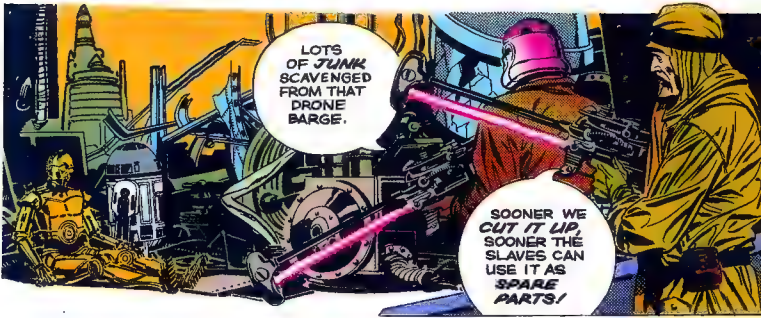
...SO HE'S TRYING TO REACH THE **BOTTOM LEVEL** OF THE SERPENT MASTERS' DWELLING, WHERE THEY'D BE **STORED!**



T-IRING...BUT... **GOT** TO KEEP GOING ! EVEN WITH MY **LIGHTSABER** TO CARVE **HANDHOLDS...**



...I may have bitten off...**MORE** than I... can **HANDLE!**

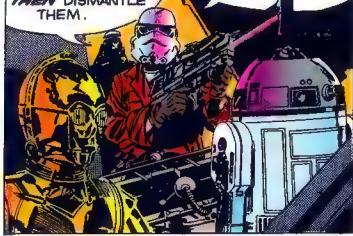


LOTS
OF *JUNK*
SCAVENGED
FROM THAT
DRONE
BARGE.

SOONER WE
CUT IT UP,
SOONER THE
SLAVES CAN
USE IT AS
*SPARE
PARTS!*

THOSE MECHANICALS
ARE SHUT DOWN--
NO DANGER! LET'S
TAKE A BREAK,
THEN DISMANTLE
THEM.

TYRANN HAS
LITTLE TOLERANCE
WHERE *DROIDS*
ARE CONCERNED...



...WHY CHANCE *UPSETTING* THE
SUPREME SERPENT MASTER?
WE'LL CHOP 'EM UP *NOW!*

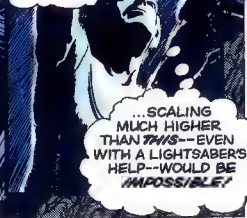


Cutting handholds in the Great Well's
sheer walls, Luke nears his goal...

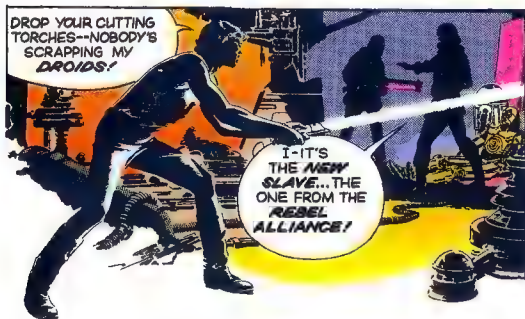
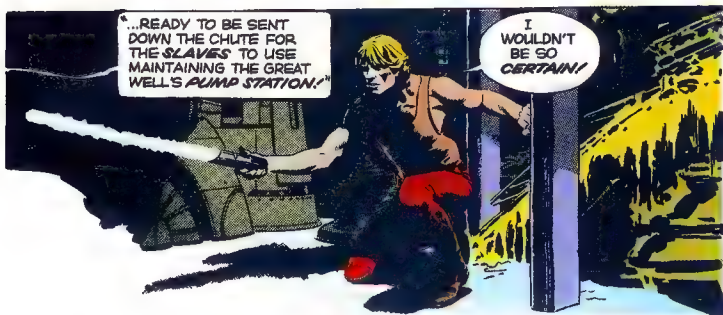
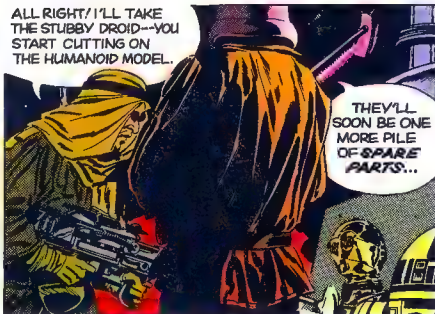
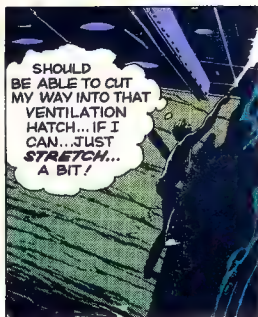


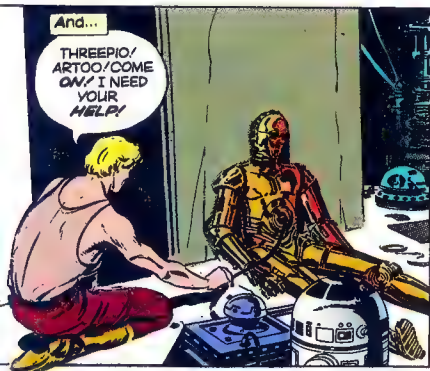
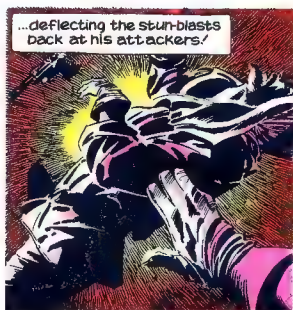
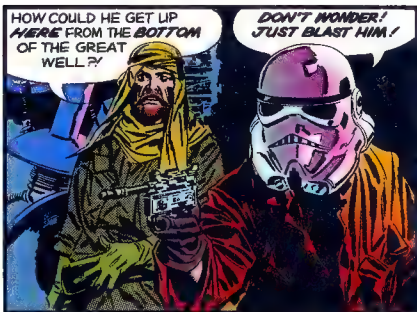
THE
STORAGE
LEVEL OF THE
SERPENT
MASTERS'
DWELLING!

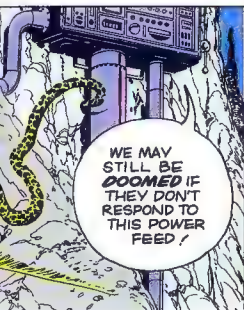
AND NOT A MOMENT TOO SOON/
UNLESS YOU'RE AS STRONG
AS A
WOOKIEE...



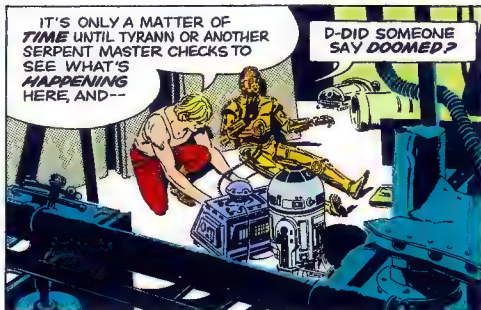
...SCALING
MUCH HIGHER
THAN *THIS*--EVEN
WITH A LIGHTSABER'S
HELP--WOULD BE
IMPOSSIBLE!





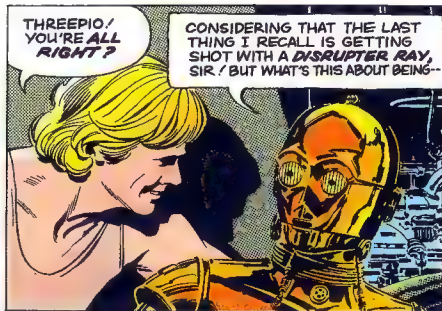


WE MAY STILL BE DOOMED IF THEY DON'T RESPOND TO THIS POWER FEED!



IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL TYRANN OR ANOTHER SERPENT MASTER CHECKS TO SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE, AND--

D-DID SOMEONE SAY DOOMED?



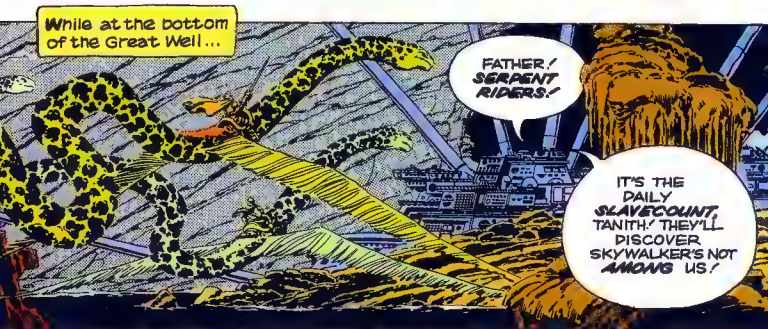
THREEPIO! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?

CONSIDERING THAT THE LAST THING I RECALL IS GETTING SHOT WITH A DISRUPTER RAY, SIR, BUT WHAT'S THIS ABOUT BEING--



I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING LATER! CONCENTRATE ON REVIVING ARTOO.

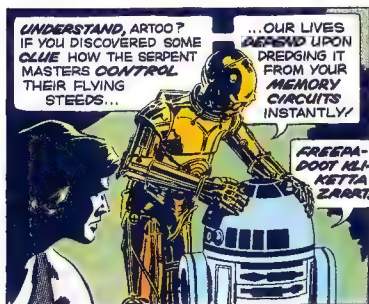
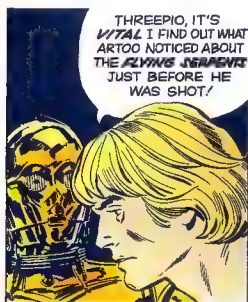
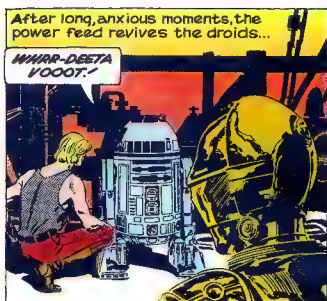
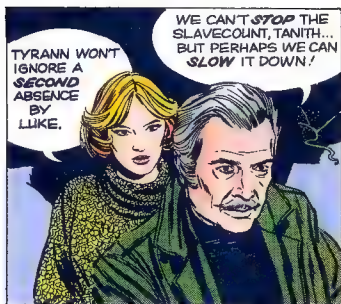
I THINK THIS LITTLE DROID KNOWS SOMETHING THAT MAY GET US OUT OF THIS MESS WE'RE IN!



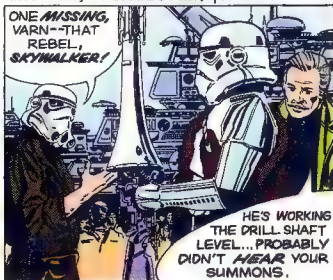
While at the bottom of the Great Well ...

FATHER! SERPENT RIDERS!

IT'S THE DAILY SLAVECOUNT, TANITH! THEY'LL DISCOVER SKYWALKER'S NOT AMONG US!



Meantime, the **SLAVECOUNT** proceeds!



YOU'RE **STALLING**, SHIRE! TRYING TO **HIDE** THAT SKYWALKER'S **RUN OFF** AGAIN!

IT WON'T **WORK**, SLAVE! WE'LL **FIND** HIM... AND TYRANN WON'T BE **GENTLE** THIS TIME.

HE'S WORKING THE DRILL SHAFT LEVEL... PROBABLY DIDN'T **HEAR** YOUR SUMMONS.

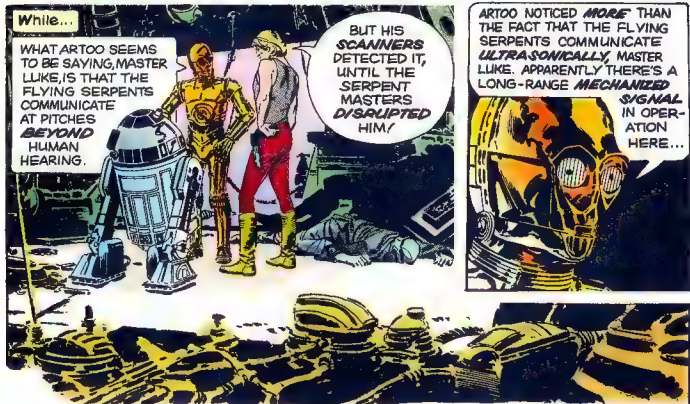
While...

WHAT ARTOO SEEMS TO BE SAYING, MASTER LUKE, IS THAT THE FLYING SERPENTS COMMUNICATE AT PITCHES **BEYOND** HUMAN HEARING.

BUT HIS **SCANNERS** DETECTED IT, UNTIL THE SERPENT MASTERS **DISRUPTED** HIM!

ARTOO NOTICED **MORE** THAN THE FACT THAT THE FLYING SERPENTS COMMUNICATE **ULTRASONICALLY**, MASTER LUKE. APPARENTLY THERE'S A LONG-RANGE **MECHANIZED**

SIGNAL IN OPERATION HERE...

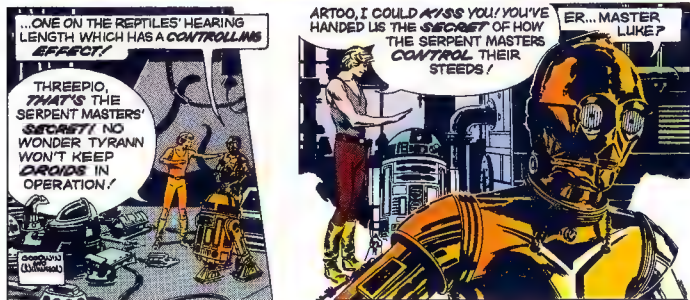


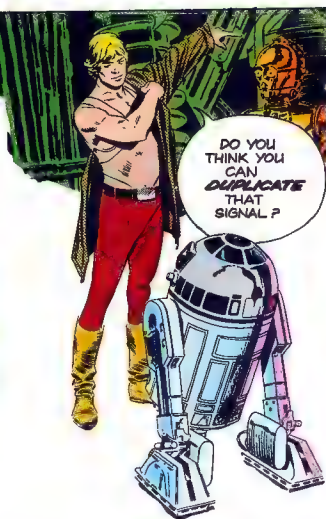
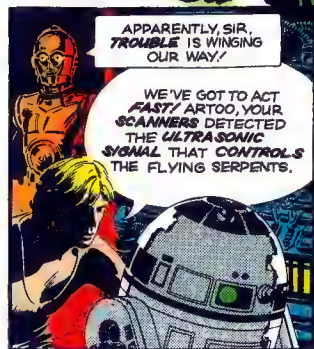
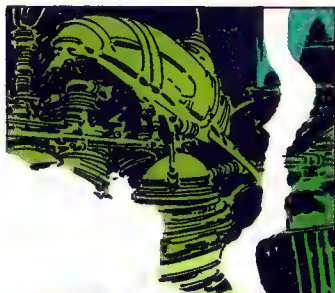
...ONE ON THE REPTILES' HEARING LENGTH WHICH HAS A **CONTROLLING EFFECT!**

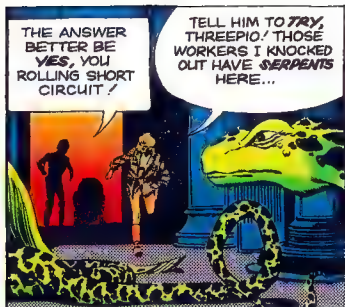
THREPIO, **THAT'S** THE SERPENT MASTERS' **SECRET!** NO WONDER TYRANN WON'T KEEP **DROIDS** IN OPERATION!

ARTOO, I COULD **RYSS** YOU! YOU'VE HANDED US THE **SECRET** OF HOW THE SERPENT MASTERS **CONTROL** THEIR **STEEDS!**

ER... MASTER LUKE?







THE ANSWER
BETTER BE
YES, YOU
ROLLING SHORT
CIRCUIT!

TELL HIM TO TRY,
THREEPIO! THOSE
WORKERS I KNOCKED
OUT HAVE SERPENTS
HERE...

"...AND I'M GOING TO *RIDE* ONE!"



I PRAY THIS
WORKS OUT
BETTER THAN
MY **LAST**
ATTEMPT!



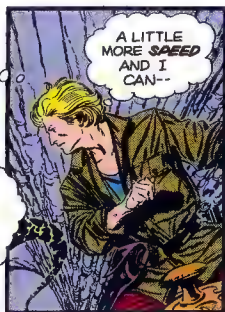
THE
ESCAPED
SLAVE!
B-BUT...

...HE'S *RIDING*
ONE OF OUR
STEEDS!

HOW CAN IT BE?
ONLY THE **SUPREME**
SERPENT MASTER
HAS THE POWER
TO PERMIT THAT!

THAT'S **IT**, ARTOO!
YOU'VE DUPLICATED
THE ULTRASONIC
CONTROL SIGNAL
THOSE FLYING
REPTILES
RESPOND TO!

NOW DON'T
FALTER IN YOUR
TRANSMISSION,
OR MASTER
LUKE IS
DOOMED!



A LITTLE
MORE **SAVED**
AND I
CAN--

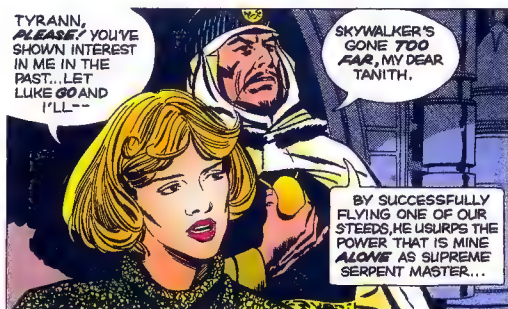
THIS
CREATURE'S
RESPONDING
TO MY EVERY
MOVE!

ARTOO'S DOING
A PERFECT JOB
MATCHING AND
TRANSMITTING THE
SERPENT MASTERS'
CONTROL
SIGNAL!



BLAM!

IF YOU'RE THINKING
OF REACHING THE
SPACECRAFT STORED ON
THE UPPER LEVELS OF OUR
DWELLINGS, SKYWALKER...
THINK AGAIN!



The Adventure continues next month in **CLASSIC STAR WARS #6!**

STELLAR scribes

c/o DARK HORSE COMICS • 10956 SE MAIN • MILWAUKIE, OR 97222



Dear Ms. Bennett,

Three points, if I may, concerning your *Classic Star Wars* comics:

1. CSW is not a seamless comic book. The cutting and pasting of the newspaper strip is obvious. You've eliminated the redundancy of the daily strip, but it has been done at the expense of transitions within the story. Take, for instance, page 16 of the second issue; I think some text explaining the sudden change in venue would have been in order. Likewise, a title page would help make CSW more like a comic book rather than just a collection of panels. All in all, however, things are getting better, and when you have Goodwin's terrific stories, Williamson's fantastic art, and Buccellato's vibrant colors, it is hard to go wrong.

2. I'd like to cast a vote for reprinting the two years' worth of SW strips that preceded the Goodwin/Williamson stint on the strip. The Manning strips are much more rare than the Goodwin/Williamson strips, which were reprinted not only by Russ Cochran but also by *Amazing Heroes*. The first two years also featured the adaptation of Brian Daley's *Han Solo at Stars' End* and a Boba Fett story. Maybe instead of calling it CSW you could call it *The Rare Star Wars*?

3. I'm enjoying CSW much more than *Dark Empire*, which is kind of surprising and ironic for two reasons: (a) I've read the aforementioned strips countless times before, and (b) Lucasfilm was probably much more restrictive with Goodwin and Williamson than they were with Veitch and Kennedy.

Peter Iorillo
Cleveland Hts., OH

Thanks for the critique, Peter — we need all the feedback we can

get, positive or otherwise. As far as I know, nobody's ever done a comic like Classic Star Wars before, and we're learning as we go. In fact, we've made major changes in our production process in CSW #4 and again in #7, to improve the reproduction quality of the interior art.

Transitions (or the lack thereof) between storylines are particularly difficult to smooth over; we've tried different methods in upcoming issues, with (I hope) ever-better results. We're also considering adding a title page, or at least a "the story so far" recap sequence at the beginning of each issue.

As for the first two years of Star Wars strips, the vote seems to be unanimous: everybody wants us to reprint everything we can get our hands on. Right now we're trying to figure out just how to get our hands on the stuff — if anyone has suggestions, send 'em our way!

And now for some unabashedly positive feedback....

Dear Ms. Bennett:

I recently purchased *Classic Star Wars* #1-3. I know there has been a lot of praise over *Dark Empire*, but I think a lot of people are overlooking the *Classic* series.

While *Dark Empire* is quite good, it lacks a quality that *Classic* is abundant in: fun. *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Return of the Jedi* do have serious themes, but they also had a great fun factor. Goodwin and Williamson have really captured the spirit of *Star Wars*, even if their stories were not as complicated as *Dark Empire*'s. As a matter of fact, *Classic* reminds me a lot of the golden-age Flash Gordon, which was the *Star Wars* of that day.

I was nine when I saw *Star Wars*, and I read the Marvel series religiously. I never remember a newspaper strip. I am glad you

have given me a chance to read it now. As long as you publish *Classic Star Wars*, I will be here to read it.

Paul George
W. Sacramento, CA

Thankfully, Classic Star Wars is getting plenty of attention from Star Wars fans young and old. Every time a new issue comes out, my mailbox is overflowing within a week!

Before moving on, Paul, I just gotta ask: Are your parents Beatles fans, by any chance?

Dear *Classic Star Wars*,

Wow! *Classic Star Wars* is awesome! As a child, I loved and lived *Star Wars*! I collected the action figures, read the books, and of course, followed the comic strip in the newspaper. *Classic Star Wars* is masterfully done, the best comic book I have seen. The color is vibrant, the action unrelenting, and the plot well thought-out! Thanks for this wonderful bit of nostalgia!

As one reader queried in issue #4, I would like to cast my vote for a backup feature of Al Williamson's panels of characters, vehicles, etc. This would add so much to an already great series.

Greg Romine
Morgantown, WV

Your wish is our command, Greg (well, within reason, anyway)! We'll be featuring Al's title panels on occasion in the "Star Wars Showcase" pages.

Dear Anina,

First of all, I would like to compliment everyone involved with this great comic. I have not collected comics for many years now, but when I saw this comic I had to start again. My only problem is with one of your responses

to a letter in issue #4. You have stated that you will publish the comic until you run out of strips. Then what? This is a great comic and I, like many others, would love to see it continue. Goodwin and Williamson are a great team. Please do your best to keep this series going. Until that time comes, keep up the good work.

Brad Mitchell
New Vienna, OH

I doubt there's much chance of getting Archie and Al to do new Star Wars stories, since they're both staggeringly busy with various endeavors — but I won't rule it out completely. Never say never, right?

Dear Stellar Scribes:

Thank you, thank you, *thank* you for reprinting the *Star Wars* newspaper strips. I haven't been able to get enough *Star Wars* since the craze died down several years ago. I just have one wish, and I hope that if enough readers agree with me you'll go with it. My wish is that you would print *Classic Star Wars* in black-and-white because that is how a newspaper strip is meant to be seen. The color only subtracts from the effect. Besides, you can't color something well if it wasn't drawn to be colored.

Still, with or without color, I'll keep eating these things up.

Matt Hiebert
Downs, IL

I'm afraid you're outvoted on the color question, Matt. And while it's true that black-and-white artwork is tough to color, I hope you agree that Steve Buccellato is handling this difficult task superbly!

Dear Anina,

In *Classic Star Wars* #4 you respond (wisely) to a letter from Khairul Hisham about "continuity glitches" between this series and *Dark Empire*. Well, what about Marvel's series, the Brian Daley books, Timothy Zahn's books... the list is endless, but I'm sure you knew that already. The fact is that there are no "continuity glitches." These are all individual

stories, and who is to say which of these works are the "right" ones? As far as I'm concerned there is only one "true story," and that's the one presented in the movies. Anything else is just pure fantasy inspired by the movies and written by fans, be they professional or not. Only George Lucas knows how things will work out for Luke, Han, Leia, and the rest. When he finally gets around to telling the final trilogy, he'll probably contradict everything else, including *Dark Empire*.

Dark Empire was a fine story, but it's not gospel! If *Dark Horse* should choose a writer for the next *SW* miniseries who has different ideas about our heroes' destinies than Tom Veitch does... well, cool! Who cares if there's continuity between *Dark Empire* and upcoming series? One day George Lucas will prove them all wrong, anyway. (As happened with *Aliens*, where the *Dark Horse* editor denied that the *Aliens* take shape after their hosts. Well, now we all know they do.)

Anyway, I love *Classic Star Wars* even though I know most of the stories. And please continue beyond the Goodwin/Williamson stories until you've used all the newspaper stories ever made.

Star Wars anecdotes? Well, my story's pretty long, so I'll give you the short version. I bought the trading cards in 1977, though I didn't see the movie then. I just loved science fiction (because of *Space: 1999*). Besides, I was only nine and you had to be twelve to see the movie. When I saw announcements for *The Empire Strikes Back* in 1980, I rushed to see the movie. I was totally addicted, and with a friend I saw it loads of times. In 1981 we caught *Star Wars* at a re-run and with *Return of the Jedi* approaching, we started a Danish *Star Wars* fan club called "Jediridderne," which lasted until mid-1987. In 1984 I began work on my own comic in the pages of the club magazine, and in 1986 it received its own title (*Sjernerkrigerne*), which is still running. I have enclosed a copy of the latest issue, which I think you should plug. (We plugged yours, so it would only be fair if

you returned the favor.) It's a special jam issue featuring art from four of the five contributing artists. (I'm the fifth, and I wrote the story in this issue.) It's in Danish; interested Scandinavians can write to me for information.

Michael C.T. Andersen
Ravnvænget 6
5610 Assens
Denmark

Consider yourself plugged, Michael!

Your comments on continuity will probably inspire heated response, but I agree with you for the most part. Trying to weave the disparate *Star Wars* stories into a single, linear "history" is challenging and fun, but there'll always be spots where things don't quite mesh. It's worth remembering that everyone who creates this stuff is pretty much making it up as they go along, and that they all have their own points of view. Such is the nature of life, eh?

Since Michael also mentioned trading cards, this is a perfect opportunity to tell you that *Classic Star Wars* #8 will contain an exclusive version of a new Topps trading card! We're doing our utmost to get *CSW* back on schedule so that #8 will be available in April, when Topps' brand new *Star Wars* Galaxy card series debuts.

And with that newflash I must, alas, bid you all farewell. I'm moving on to a different job with a different company; by the time you read this I'll be in Denmark, of all places! Never fear, though — the reins of *Classic Star Wars* will be taken up by bashful Bob Cooper, erstwhile editor of *Dark Horse Comics*. My ghostly presence will hover over the next few issues, since I've already laid out the panel arrangements through #9, but Bob's the main man from here on out. Be gentle with him, okay?

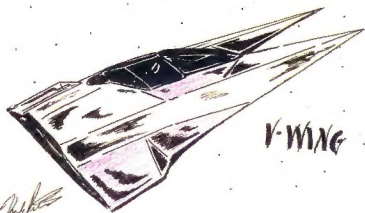
It's been a blast, a privilege, and an all-around pleasure, folks. I wish I could've printed all the heartfelt letters I've received on this title, but then there wouldn't have been room for the stories! Keep reading, keep writing, and keep the faith!

Yours in spirit,

—Anina Bennett

STAR WARS

S H O W C A S E



Millennium Falcon

Illustration by Kyle Peterson



Illustration by Scott Haan



DCP

PRESENTS A
SCAN BY

DARTH SCANNER

*Leeching leads to the Dark Side of the Force.
A good Jedi buys comics and supports the industry!*